



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2000: THE RUN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.

Editor's note: The Republican Party's worst nightmare now has a warchest of \$12.6 million in federal funds. And what will hardline conservative Reform Party presidential nominee **Patrick Buchanan** do with this money? Our sources think he'll try to make life totally miserable for TX Gov. George W. Bush – the GOP presidential candidate. Here's our update, analysis & commentary...

...Some sources think Buchanan's ultimate objective is to destroy the existing Republican Party by driving a wedge between the various wings within the GOP. Others strongly disagree. But in order for Buchanan to make a respectable showing Nov. 7th, he's going to need to attract voters from the hardline wing of the GOP to his banner. At the present time, Buchanan is only showing about 1-2% in the national polls. The Sept. 14-15 Newsweek survey has Buchanan at 2% (Gore is at 50%, Bush at 38% and Green Party nominee Ralph Nader at 3%). Here in Calif., the August Field Poll put Buchanan's support at 2%...

...But there are sources who think these numbers are low, because there is hidden support for Buchanan among his former GOP followers. In terms of numbers, our sources are talking about 2-3%. These hardliners from Calif. and the key battleground states of Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois and Pennsylvania, are keeping quiet for now. They are playing the part of the loyal GOPer, but in the privacy of the voting booth, they could easily go for Buchanan. What attracts these hardline conservatives to Buchanan? The message: pro-life, pro-gun, pro-187, pro-voucher, anti-gay, anti-NAFTA and anti-UN. These voters aren't impressed with Bush's compassionate conservatism. They love Pat's English-only red meat menu of made in the USA...

...What could make these otherwise loyal Republicans vote for Buchanan? Our Buchanan/GOP sources in Calif. say most hardline conservatives don't trust Bush and if he waffles on a key issue or bashes Buchanan openly, that's all it might take to push these voters into Buchanan's camp. Although it's not likely Bush would waffle on abortion or tax

cuts, one area where Bush might be vulnerable from the right is on school vouchers...

...Bush favors vouchers, but has ducked the issue here in Calif. (Prop. 38). In Michigan, vouchers is on the ballot too (*Kids First! Yes!*) and it has caused a **big split** in the Michigan GOP. Gov. John Engler(R) is opposed to this voucher measure, while many other GOPers support it, including former GOP State party chair Betsy DeVos. What happens when Buchanan goes into Michigan and makes this an issue? Big trouble for Bush...

...FYI: Our sources say when Buchanan comes to Calif., he'll make illegal immigration a key issue. It'll be 187 Buchanan style and it's a controversial message which plays very well with many of his former GOP allies. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: BACKERS OF PROP. 39 GET SOME LEGISLATIVE HELP IN MENDING FLAWED INITIATIVE.

Editor's note: As Calpeek has been saying for a long time, most initiatives, regardless of how careful the drafters are, usually have flaws. Prop. 39, the initiative which was rushed onto the Nov. 7th ballot to allow local school districts to pass school bonds with only a 55% vote (instead of the current 2/3rds vote), is no exception. Here's our update & commentary.

...Taxpayers for Accountability & Better Schools have one little problem if voters carefully read the Calif. Voter Information Guide for the Nov. 7th election. Nowhere in this initiative will voters find the following relating to new accountability requirements for local school bonds: 1) 2/3rds of the governing board of a school district or community college must approve putting a bond issue on the ballot (currently it's only a simple majority); 2) the bond proposal has to be put before voters during a regularly scheduled election (no special elections); and 3) the school board must appoint a citizens' oversight committee...

...These safeguards are **not** part of Prop. 39, but will be included in the law should Prop. 39 be approved. Where do

these accountability requirements come from? They come from AB 2659, passed recently by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Gray Davis. But guess what? This bill and its companion, AB 1908, are *moot* should Prop. 39 be defeated. AB 2659 and AB 1908 were written *specifically* to beef up the accountability section in Prop. 39. This is what happens too often during the drafting stage – key elements of an initiative are accidentally omitted...

...Despite the oversight just described, supporters of Prop. 39 are leading in the latest Field Poll, taken Aug. 18-22 among 416 likely voters and in the new Public Policy Inst. of CA poll. Here's what it looks like, side-by-side:

	<u>Field</u>	<u>PPIC</u>
YES	48%	49%
NO	31%	37%
Und.	21%	14%

...Certainly it's good news for the YES side, but in order to pass a controversial initiative like this, past history shows the YES side had to have started out with a bigger lead – over 60%. That's not the case with Prop. 39. The CA Republican Party endorsed the NO side at its recent convention in Palm Springs. FYI: YES on 39 is back on TV, while NO on 39 is now airing its 2nd radio ad. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: This week Calpeek updates two of the key targeted U.S. House races in Calif.: the 27th CD and the 36th CD. Here's our analysis...

☒ **27th CD Update** – Most sources, GOP and Demo alike, now agree that State Sen. Adam Schiff(D-Burbank) has a slight lead on incumbent U.S. Rep. James Rogan(R-Glen-dale). Rogan's had a rough time ever since the primary when Schiff narrowly beat him. There have been missteps, not to mention some highly controversial votes in the House. Case in point: on Sept. 13th Rogan failed to join a bi-partisan coalition supporting a bill to crack down on violent hate crimes. CA GOPers who voted with the coalition included Horn, Bilbray and Kuykendall – all targeted this year...

...In terms of registration, Demo sources say that since the primary, Demo registration has picked up by 6,381 vs. 2,441 for the GOP. The Demos already had about an 11,000 vote advantage to begin with. Making matters tougher for Rogan, sources in the 43rd AD (nested within the 27th CD) show that support for Demo VP Al Gore is very strong. He's got a 17 pt. lead on GOPer George W. Bush as of now...

...Both Rogan and Schiff remain up on tv. One of the ads for Rogan (paid for by Citizens for Better Medicare, read

that as the pharmaceutical industry's group) is a very positive ad for Rogan. But remember, Rogan voted against a bill to create a Medicare Prescription drug plan. Instead he voted for a different prescription drug plan which favored the drug companies. However, it's a newer Rogan ad which is under the gun. In it, Rogan briefly mentions his role in the impeachment trial of Bill Clinton. Most sources say that's not where Rogan ought to be going with his tv. As one source not connected to the Schiff campaign told Calpeek, "It just reminds people why they didn't like Rogan in the first place."...

☒ **36th CD Update** – Most sources continue to rate this contest between incumbent U.S. Rep. Steve Kuykendall(R) and former Congresswoman Jane Harman(D-Torrance) as a toss up. But there are some indications that perhaps things are shifting just slightly in Harman's direction. She has a significant lead in fundraising, but with IEs and soft money issue-orient-ed tv ads, both sides will have all the resources they need. Harman should have an edge in terms of GOTV and a ground operation...

...In terms of registration, it's always been very close between Demos and GOPers: about 42.5% D vs. 41% R. Although final registration doesn't close until Oct. 10th, Demos say they've registered 1,993 new voters vs. a net loss of 324 for the GOP. No head-to-head polling is available on either side, but our sources say Gore has a small lead over Bush in the 36th CD. And in the internals (that's the stuff that tells you how a candidate is doing on selected issues), sources say Harman has a big lead over Kuykendall on social security, Medicare and education...

...Both campaigns are up on tv, although the ads are being paid for by soft money. FYI: one of the positive ads for Kuykendall is paid for by Citizens for Better Medicare, the same group that's doing an ad for Rogan. Hummm...

...GOP U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert has visited the 36th CD for Kuykendall, but the parade of Demos coming in for Harman is very impressive: House Demo Leader Dick Gephardt, new Commerce Sec. Norman Mineta, Health & Human Services Sec. Donna Shalala and on Sept. 18th Demo VP candidate U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman. Stay tuned...

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CAMPAIGN 2000: MAYOR BROWN, CLINT REILLY & TOM AMMIANO AT WAR IN S.F. SUPERVISOR RACES.

Editor's note: The upcoming political donnybrook in San Francisco over the election in all 11 county supervisor districts is more like WWII. With more than 100 candidates in all, **Calpeek** will only focus the top tier candidates. Two things make this Nov. 7th election interesting: 1) S.F. returns to district elections; and 2) S.F. Mayor Willie Brown, S.F. County Sup. Tom Ammiano and former mayoral candidate Clint Reilly are at war once again. Much of the bitterness from the 1999 election between Brown and Ammiano remains, while the hatred between Brown and Reilly dates back years. Here's our update & analysis...

...In our first report some months ago, we listed 3 incumbent supervisors as being *slam dunks* for reelection. Now we're down to 2: Ammiano in the 9th District and Gavin Newsom in the 2nd District. Mark Leno from the 8th District was listed previously, but Ammiano has recruited Eileen Hansen. Our sources say it's an Ammiano payback for Leno's backing of Brown in the mayor's race. Leno still wins...

...The *biggest surprise* is that Sup. Leslie Katz decided not to seek reelection in the 6th District. There are 3 serious rivals: S.F. Taxi Commission president Chris Dittenhaser (Brown's candidate); activist Beryl Magilavy (backed by Ammiano and the Sierra Club); and Chris Daly from the S.F. Tenants Union. Toss-up...

...In the 1st District, incumbent Michael Yaki had no serious opposition at first, but now faces Rose Tsai (backed by Reilly) and Jake McGoldrick (supported by Ammiano). Yaki is still considered the favorite...

...There are two incumbents who could be in *deep trouble*. Sup. Mabel Teng in the 7th District faces court clerk Tony Hall, who has strong backing from Reilly. Teng is probably too liberal for this district. Another incumbent with a tough reelection is Alicia Becerril in the 3rd District. Becerril was appointed to the board by Brown. Most sources say the frontrunner in the 3rd is Aaron Peskin (supported by both Ammiano & Reilly). Community College trustee Laurence Wong and Megan Levitan also are in the running...

...Sup. Amos Brown of the 11th District also may have a tough fight against Rebecca Silverberg, who has lots of business support. The Ammiano-backed candidate is Jerado Sandoval. Another WWII situation involves incumbent Sup. Leland Yee from the 4th District, who faces Tom Hsieh Jr. and Deputy DA John Shanley. Shanley is considered a long shot, but between Yee and Hsieh, it's too close to call...

...In the OPEN 10th District the Willie Brown candidate is Planning Comm. Linda Richardson. Her toughest challenge may come from Sophie Maxwell. In the OPEN 5th District (a very liberal area), the leading contenders are former S.F. Co. Demo Party chair Agar Jacks, who is backed by labor; S.F. school board member Juanita Owens; and public defender Matt Gonzales, who ran for DA. Gonzales is supported by Ammiano. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Sept. 30	Last day for governor to sign or veto bills.
Oct. 3	Presidential Debate – Boston, MA.
Oct. 5	Vice Presidential Debate – Danville, KY.
Oct. 10	Last day to register to vote.
Oct. 11	Presidential Debate, St. Louis, MO.
Oct. 17	Presidential Debate, Winston-Salem, NC.
Oct. 19	L.A. Co. DA's Debate, KCAL-TV.
Oct. 20	VICA Candidates' Forum, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA.
Oct. 31	Last day to apply for absentee ballot.

CAMPAIGN 2000: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: In this update **Calpeek** will focus on Props. 36 (Drug Treatment) and 39 (School Vouchers)...

◆ *Prop. 36 Update* – There's both good news and bad news for the YES on 36 campaign. This initiative would allow 1st offense/non-violent drug users into a drug treatment program rather than go to prison or jail. The good news is that they continue to lead the NO side in the most current Field Poll. The bad news is that their margin has slipped in the past two months. Here is the data...

	<u>Field/August</u>	<u>Field/June</u>
YES	55%	64%
NO	27%	20%
Und.	18%	16%

...The YES side has picked up a number of new endorsements from health-related groups, including the CA Nurses Assn., the Mental Health Assn. of CA, S.F. Medical Society, the So. Calif. Public Health Assn. and the CA Psychiatric Assn. The NO side has won backing from the CA Chamber of Commerce and CA Manufacturers & Technology Assn....

...As of late, the YES on 36 campaign (*Calif. Campaign for New Drug Policies*) has been attacking the drug courts in Calif. And as the YES on 36 campaign notes, "Despite the promising results from drug courts in Calif. and elsewhere, this system remains unavailable to the majority of drug defendants." Very true and that's the key problem: there are not enough drug courts...

...FYI: the CA Republican Party (CRP) went on record against 36 at their recent convention. The CA Demo Party went neutral (no position) last month...

● **Prop. 38 Update** – Some new polling data on the School Voucher Initiative. Calpeek reported the Field Poll data in last week's issue. This week Calpeek has some September data from the Public Policy Inst. of CA. Here are the results, side-by-side:

	<u>PPIC</u>	<u>Field</u>
YES on 38	37%	36%
NO on 38	53%	49%
Und.	10%	15%

...The CA Republican Party went YES on 38 at their recent convention in Palm Springs. No real shock here. One GOP spinner notes (in a rather interesting email memo) that key voucher backer, the deep pocketed Tim Draper, seems "oblivious to political reality." That reality is that vouchers has energized the CTA/education establishment/Demo base, while there is no energy among the home-schoolers, private schoolers or parochial schoolers. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Finding A New GOP Assembly Leader** – Who wants the job? With only 32 current members and prospects of perhaps not picking up many or any seats, there are at least 3 Republican lawmakers who want to replace Scott Baugh on Nov. 9th. The caucus rules require the GOP to pick a new leader 48 hours after the election. Lots of jockeying going on, but sources think the battle will come down to Dave Cox and Dick Dickerson, both of No. Calif., and Bill Campbell of Orange Co. Roy Ashburn and George Runner had looked at the job, but decided not to run...

■ **Calpeek's Legal File** – Even though CA's Open Primary Law was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court, Federal Judge David Levi dismissed a lawsuit filed by losing GOP 67th AD candidate Jim Righeimer, who attempted to overturn the Mar. 7th primary results. Righeimer lost the GOP nomination to Tom Harman, even though Righeimer actually got more GOP votes. In total votes, Harman won by some 10,000. After Levi's ruling, Harman not only blasted Righeimer, but also went after CRP Chair John McGraw, who supported the Righeimer legal action. "It's another example of the CA Republican Party once again shooting itself in the foot and demonstrating that it is completely out of touch with the majority of rank and file main-

stream Republicans in Calif.," Harman said...

■ **CDP Chair Torres Gets Another Job** – Retired State Sen. Art Torres, who has been the CA Demo Party chair since mid-1996, will be leaving the CDP job on Mar. 30th to become president of the Walter Kaitz Foundation, an Oakland-based nonprofit founded by the cable tv industry. Torres' will scale down his CDP efforts after the Nov. 7th election...

■ **From Sacramento to L.A.** – The *term limit* exodus continues. First there was former Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa – now running for L.A. Mayor. Then about two weeks ago State Sen. Tom Hayden announced that he would be returning to L.A. to run for the 5th Council District. And then on Sept. 20th State Controller Kathleen Connell held a series of news conferences throughout the city to say that she too was running for mayor. Connell is the 6th serious candidate to announce for the 2001 race...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: Former S.F. Mayor George Christopher died Sept. 15th from a stroke. He was 92. He served as mayor from 1956-64. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: Former State Legislator and L.A. Co. Sup. Court Judge Robert S. Stevens died Sept. 9th. He was 84...

● Former State Treasurer Kathleen Brown has resigned her BofA job and with husband Van Gordon Sauter has moved to Idaho. Sauter is the former head of CBS-TV News...

● Former Asst. State Treas. Beverly Thomas, along with her son Ian, a former Sr. AE at Stoorza Communications, have opened their own p/a and cmp. mgt. firm, Thomas Consulting Group, 13527 Ventura Blvd., Ste. B, Sherman Oaks CA 91423. ☎(818)817-9255...

● The Sacto-based political consulting firm of Wayne C. Johnson & Associates has announced the promotion of Tim Clark to VP. The firm's name is now JohnsonClark Associates...

● Peter DeMarco has taken a leave of absence from his job with Sitrick & Co. in L.A. to be communications director for NJ GOP U.S. Rep. Bob Franks' U.S. Senate run...